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Security Information

10 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Southeastern European Division

SUBJECT : British Attitude toward possible Albanian Operation.

REFERENCE : Cable to Mr. Dulles in Paris  
(OUT 84871 dated 29 August 1953).

1. For your information and such guidance as you may be able to draw from it, the following is an account of the brief, informal discussion which the Director had while in London with the British on the subject of Albania. (Mr. Dulles had received the reference message, and, because of the position of the PSB, did not attempt to raise the subject of Albania too strongly.) The conversation was participated in by Mr. Patrick Dean of the Foreign Office and General Sinclair, and [ ] sat in during a part if not all of the discussion on Albania.

2. The British did not give evidence of any particular enthusiasm. They were neither hot nor cold. They took the line generally that it was a subject of some interest which might profitably be subjected to further consideration and exploration. Mr. Dean felt that the present Italian-Yugoslav controversy over Trieste would be a serious impediment, and that a necessary precondition to the Albanian operation would be a clearing up or at least cooling off of the Trieste matter.

3. The matter was discussed by Mr. Dulles and left in such a way that the door is open to a renewal of the discussion at any time we see fit to go back to it with the British. However, unless and until the PSB (OCB) reconsiders this matter and decides in favor of a serious effort, there is no particular point in reopening or continuing the discussion with the British. Moreover, it is also clear that, without a change in the PSB position, we are under a prohibition against proposing to the British at the service level anything in the nature of a joint operation. It was and still is the PSB position that, if this matter is to be raised with the British, the initial approach should be at a high level between the State Department and the Foreign Office.

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cc: DCI  
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